

ACTION PAPER

Subject: Supporting National Military Appreciation Month in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Fact: Organizers for America's National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM), to be held in May and June of this year (2003), are asking all of us in the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave to show appreciation for our military (Active, Reserve, National Guard, Former and Retired) by promoting programs and observances during that period that will honor their service. The brilliantly successful conclusion of the military phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom makes a celebration of victory and a commemoration for the heroes who made our victory possible all the more appropriate.

Fact: National Military Appreciation Month is has official sanction.. In 1999, a resolution was passed by Congress proclaiming May as National Military Appreciation Month. The resolution calls upon all Americans to remember those who gave their lives in defense of freedom and honors the men and women of all of our Armed Services who have served and are now serving our Country. This year following the display of valor, bravery and fortitude by our Nation's military forces, National Military Appreciation Month has a special meaning for us all.

Fact: The months of May and June were selected for this display of patriotism because of the large number of military anniversaries and special days that occur during that time. During the month of May, we celebrate VE (WWII Victory in Europe Day), Military Spouse Day, Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Day/Week, National Day of Prayer, Memorial Day, Navy Day and for June Army Day and Flag Day.

Fact: Even though there are many patriots living in Santa Fe City and County and many who have proudly worn their Country's uniform in the several Armed Services of our Country in its wars for freedom in this and the last century, Santa Fe has become known in the State and Nation as a haven for anti-military demonstrations. It is time, many of use that live here and are members of patriotic and veteran's organizations feel, to demonstrate our love and support for our Country in a tangible and visible way.

Fact: In unity, the unity of our patriotic and veteran's organizations there is strength. We need to mutually support each of our respective efforts...to name a few, the essay contests, Boy's State, Youth Leadership Conferences, Patriotism education. We need to support each other, work with each other more than ever before in the conduct of all of our national days of patriotic commemoration---Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Flag Day and now National Military Appreciation Month.

Fact: Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico have both the obligation and honor to specially commemorate the service of our most recent veterans---those of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We should identify them, find them and if at all possible bring them to Santa Fe for Flag Day, 2003 to be the focal point of our celebrations on that day.

How can we best celebrate and commemorate Military Appreciation Month in Santa Fe?

1. Show we care as individuals.
 - a. Speak up. Talk to civic, professional and business groups about NMAM. Talk up the program to our friends and neighbors.
 - b. Wear the flag.
 - c. Fly the flag.
 - d. Tie yellow ribbons all around town.
 - e. Display patriotic bumper stickers on our automobiles.
 - f. Write letters to the editors of the Journal and the New Mexican. (Don't let the anti-American crowd hog all the space.)
2. Act like we care as groups:
 - a. Get your organization fully behind National Military Appreciation Month.
 - b. Send support and e-mail letters to our troops at home and abroad.
 - c. Send care packages to our troops at home and abroad.
 - d. Support programs like the Legacy and State Oral History programs.
 - e. Monetarily support the purchase of bumper stickers, yellow ribbons.
 - f. Monetarily support the cost of display ads in our local newspapers (Journal, New Mexican, Reporter) to make what we are doing known:
 - (1) National Military Appreciation Month
 - (2) Urging citizens to tie yellow ribbons and to fly the Flag from 1 May through Flag Day on the 14th of Jun.
 - (3) Asking for prayers and support for the families of those who have lost loved ones in Operation Iraqi Freedom.
 - (4) Urging all citizens to plan to support our troops at Ft. Marcy Park on the 14th of June.
3. What else do we need to do?
 - a. New releases to print and electronic media
 - b. Proclamation drafts with support from our memberships at City County, Board of County Commissioners.
 - c. Letters of support to the Governor of New Mexico
 - d. Plan the Flag Day Commemoration as a group. Appoint members of each of our groups to form a working committee to make Flag Day a great success...meaning we will get all of the state and city officials there, our Congressional Delegation, as many of New Mexico's returned heroes as we can...with messages from those who cannot attend. (We should strive for the attendance of PFC Hudson of Alamogordo to be our guest of honor on the 14th of June.